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From: Lawler, Michael (DPH)
Sent: Wednesday, May 25, 2011 3:31 PM
To: Nassif, Julianne (DPH); Salemi, Charles (DPH)
Subject: requesting your support in a proposed change towards good lab practices

Julie and Chuck,

Over the past 20 years I have been the lab safety officer for the Drug Unit. I have attended to the scut work associated with this responsibility the entire time, thinking it somehow contributed to the morale of the group as a whole, not having to attend to these matters. For my efforts, I would like to alert you to the consideration I have gained from my colleagues.

- 1) common work areas in the hoods are routinely abandoned to others use, with spill residues and traces of test material (particularly marijuana) which I and Dan Renczkowski routinely clean up.
- 2) acid residues are left on hood work surfaces when spot tests bottles are refreshed from stock
- 2) broken glassware boxes are used to dispose beverage containers and other trash, which has doubled the time I spend replacing the boxes. Today was the clincher when I discovered two unprocessed reagent bottles of hydrochloric acid in a "broken glass box" with 5 ml of concentrated HCl in the bottom of each
- 4) each year at chemical inventory time, I have routinely inquired of each lab section whether there is old chemical waste or reagents for discarding, with the caveat that "I would take care of it " if they simply brought it to my attention. I only requested that they *visually sweep their labs* and bring the stuff to me. I have been assured for the last several years that they gave the rooms a review and that there was nothing of note. With the recent preparation of the lab rooms for remodeling, material is magically appearing from every corner, for proper disposal. Each item will require a review so I can present the hazardous waste vendor a credible manifest to accept the material.

In the next few weeks, I will write up a module for the others in the lab and put the role of routine safety into the hands of the individual chemists on a rotation of about a month each. That would give each chemist the opportunity to do the safety tasks once a year. I really would appreciate your support in this move.

Thanks, Mike